

REMARKS

Claims 7-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 10 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claim 7 is amended to incorporate those features identified in the outstanding Office Action as distinguishing over the applied reference. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 07-276035 (JP 035). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP 035 fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended. For example, JP 035 fails to disclose a method for manufacturing a metal-ceramic composite member, comprising: placing a ceramic member in a movable mold member; pouring a molten metal to be joined into the movable mold member which is disposed inside a fixed passage member so as to bring the molten metal into contact with a surface of the ceramic member; and cooling and solidifying the molten metal to join the metal onto the surface of the ceramic member by a direct joining strength of the ceramic and the metal on an interface therebetween, wherein the molten metal to be joined is poured while the movable mold member is passing through a passage member, with the ceramic member placed in the movable mold member, extending along a plurality of process regions, practically in a shielded state from the atmosphere, as recited in the amended independent claim 7.


In the Response to Argument section of the outstanding Office Action, it is indicated that because the rejected claims fail to recite a "movable mold, containing a ceramic member therein, wherein the movable mold is disclosed inside a fixed mold" that claims 7-9 remain rejected. As independent claim 7 is amended to recite such a removable mold member, claims 7-9 distinguish over JP 035 because JP 035 merely discloses that a ceramic member moves through a mold 6. As shown in Fig. 1, each ceramic member 2 passes through a die entry side 6A to enter a molten metal bath 1 in the crucible 7 and continues through the die exit side 6B as a metal ceramic compound. Accordingly, it is only the ceramic member that moves through the passage in not a movable mold member which is disposed inside a fixed passage member as recited in the rejected claims, as amended. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 7-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JSA:JWF/ldg

Date: January 6, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--